

Development Services Department NEWSLETTER—Volume 3, Issue 2



"Development Services...guiding today, shaping tomorrow."

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"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

- Mark Twain

DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

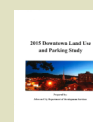
On January 31, 2014, the Planning Division staff conducted a parking study in the downtown core. The study began at 8:00 AM before most downtown businesses opened and ran until 1:00 AM to get a better understanding of the increased traffic due to the nightlife in the Downtown. Staff conducted an hourly count of every car on-street and in every public parking lot. In addition, staff conducted a land use inventory in order to project future demand. Based on the results of the parking study, there is sufficient parking in the downtown core area to meet current and projected demand. Based on an inventory of public parking spaces, there are a total of 1,220 parking spaces within the downtown study area. Of this, 665 spaces are located in public parking lots and 555 spaces are on-street parking. The peak parking demand for the entire day was 552

spaces at 10:00 PM. The day-time peak (between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM) was 532 spaces at 2:00 PM. Soon, there will be a total of 1,318 public parking



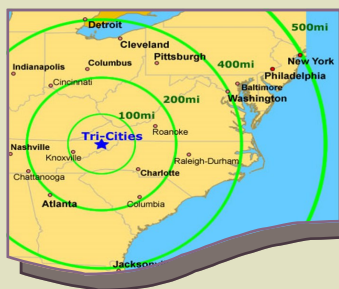
spaces within the study area. There are 555 on-street parking spaces, of which 165 spaces are 2-hour spaces. In addition, the city is expanding it's public lots to add an additional 111 spaces. The public parking demand is heaviest at the Tipton St. lot,

the Downtown Square lot and the W. Market St. lot. All three lots are close to the center of the downtown and employment centers. Visitors to Main Street often do not have access to parking spaces close to the retail establishments or restaurants because downtown employees are occupying those spaces for long periods of time. Although there is sufficient long-term parking nearby, downtown employees are choosing to occupy the more convenient short-term parking close to their place of employment. To view the entire Parking Study, click on the picture provided below!



Planning/ GIS

Johnson City's Development Services Department Director, Angie Carrier, had recently made arrangements for Jerry Bird from FranNet of Alabama/ East Tennessee to host a Seminar providing information on Franchising within the Tri-Cities. The Seminar took place at the Millennium Center located along 2001 Millennium Place on March 11, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. Local municipalities and businesses throughout the tri-cities were invited to attend the seminar. The seminar was free of



charge and only requested registration in preparation for attendance. Mr. Bird spoke on a variety of topics, such as the common misconception that Franchising

only covers fast food and retail, how to get started, how FranNet can help you along with way, along the special incentives and programs for those looking to begin a Franchise. Angie Carrier and John Speropoulos, of Mitch Cox Realty, also attended the Knoxville Franchise Expo 2015 on April 9, 2015 in hopes of welcoming an expo in the near future here in the Tri Cities. It was beneficial to see what all needs to take place in order to host a Franchising Expo here in Johnson City!

Knoxville Franchise EXPO 2015
April 9th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

20 Years of Franchising

If you want the freedom and control of owning your own business than this event is for you!

Free Workshops

- 11am: Funding Options
- 12pm: Finding the Right Franchise Fit
- 2pm: Funding Options
- 3pm: Finding the Right Franchise Fit

Over \$1,000 in Door Prizes!
(Plus additional prizes throughout the day)

Thursday, April 9, 2015
Millennium Center & Conference Center | 2001 Millennium Place | Knoxville, TN 37923
www.knoxfranchiseexpo.com

Event is free with pre-registration, \$10 at door.

FRANNET **SBDC** **SCORE**



Hackathon Results

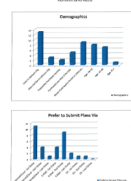
As stated in the previous newsletter, the Development Services Department believed that hosting a Hackathon is a proactive way to create a partnership to support the specific needs of the Citizens who will actually be using the option of electronic submittals. The survey mainly covered issues of convenience, however, the desired method of transferring plans and information along with payment types were also included throughout the survey. The Hackathon was made

easily accessible via our City Website at www.johnsoncitytn.org.

Double-click on the PDF document below to view the results of the Hackathon in graphs!



Double-click on the PDF document above to view the survey questions!



"There is no substitute for hard work."

- Thomas Edison

Codes

There have been lots of new things happening within the Codes Division this Spring! One of which is the retirement of our Chief Building Official, David Jenny. The Development Services Department and the City of Johnson City wishes to commend Dave Jenny, our Chief Building Official on his outstanding service to the citizens of Johnson City. Dave has been with the City for



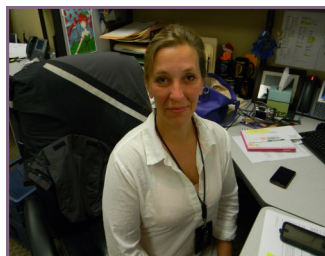
30+ years and officially retired on April 28, 2015. Angie Carrier, Development Services Department's Director will be Interim until a replacement is found. Dave will be greatly missed! With the celebration of sending off one employee comes the excitement of welcoming a new one! We would like to take a moment to introduce a new employee in the Codes Division. We welcome you Brandon Renfro! Brandon was formerly employed with the City of Johnson City Fire Department for seven years before transferring to the Development Services Department. Mr. Renfro accepted the full-time position as Codes Enforcement Officer in the Development Services Department in March of 2015. We are excited to make him a part of our team in the Codes Division!

Last but not least, Kim Woodhams, one of three Codes Enforcement Officers has recently been promoted to a Codes Enforcement Officer Crew Leader. Ms. Woodhams has worked for the City of Johnson City for close to five years. We are proud of the work that Kim is doing and felt that it would be beneficial to have her over the officers to help provide a more efficient service to the citizens of Johnson City. Kim has a lot to offer the Codes Division and has proven time and time again that she is ready for the responsibility of the role as a Crew Leader. We would like to

take this time to Thank her for her service and congratulate her on her new promotion! Go Kim! There has been a lot of change at one time within the Codes Division, as we are still in search of replacing our vacant Chief Building Official position. We hope that



the citizens of Johnson City continue to work with us as everyone is adjusting to their new roles within the Codes Division! Feel free to come by the Development Services Department if you have any new questions or concerns and we would be more than happy to introduce you to our new staff!



City Allocated Increased Funding for Homeless Shelter and Support Services

The City has been made aware recently that they will receive a significant increase in funding for their Emergency Solutions Grant program for FY 2015-16. The federal program which is passed through to the States and then to local governments provides funding for shelters and support services for the homeless and at-risk population. The City coordinates this program through their Com-

munity Development Division which in turn contracts to eligible local community service agencies to provide the shelter and services to local homeless and at-risk citizens. For FY 2015-16 that begins July 1, 2015 and ends on June 30, 2016, the City will receive \$168,781, \$161,186 to allocate to agencies and \$7,595 in administration for the City. The City expects to contract with

seven local community service agencies for the implementation of services provided by these funds to shelter and support homeless and at-risk households.



Local City Housing Redevelopment Provides Additional Housing For Veterans

The local redevelopment of an older downtown commercial property, the Volunteer Building at the corner of Buffalo Street and Wilson Avenue is now providing housing for low income and veterans with disabilities. The redevelopment which has just completed it's second phase, is being done by Ken Snowden through a local development partnership. The facility now has 26 one bedroom units for veterans and plans for additional units in the

future. Because of their location in the Mountain Home Neighborhood, they can provide a truly ideal location for

veterans both to V.A. Services and other support services needed by our veterans population.



***"This Nation
will remain the
Land of the Free
only so long as
it is the home of
the Brave."
- Elmer Davis***

City's Community Livability Group Leading Effort on Possible Food Co-op



The City's Community Livability Group which is one of four groups under the City's Partnerships Initiative that seeks to improve the quality of life for community residents is leading an effort to research and possibly create a food co-op for the City. The group has been involved in this effort since last summer and conducted a community survey last year on citizen's interest in the creation of a food co-op to be located somewhere in the central area of the City. The survey had almost 500 responses and the response was an overwhelming endorsement of the idea. The group plans some fact finding trips this spring to existing food co-op's in the region to better determine the best model for the co-op here in Johnson City.

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BBC—Board of Building Codes, 1st Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m., only as needed

BDSR—Board of Dwelling Standards, 4th Thursday @ 7 p.m., no meetings in Nov. and Dec.

BZA—Board of Zoning Appeals, 1st Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.

HZC—Historic Zoning Commission, 4th Tuesday @ 12:30 p.m.

H/CD—Housing & Community Development Citizens Advisory Board, 4th Thursday @ 12 p.m., no meetings in June or Dec.

JCNPSC—Johnson City Neighborhood Partnerships Steering Committee, 4th Tuesday @ 11:30 a.m.

JCRPC—Johnson City Regional Planning Commission, 2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.

Coming Soon in 2016!

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)

Use TDOT SmartWay Before You Go

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)'s SmartWay is Tennessee's intelligent transportation system. It is designed to reduce traffic congestion, alert travelers of construction, incidents or road conditions, and improve emergency response to traffic situations. TDOT SmartWay uses cameras to monitor the highways from Traffic Management Centers (TMC), sensors to gauge traffic flow, large electronic message boards to send urgent traffic notices to drivers along the highways, the Highway Advisory Radio system that drivers can listen to on AM station 1620, and the 511 information line that can dialed from any phone. All together, the system works to improve safety on Tennessee's roadways.

TDOT has recently rolled out a new, redesigned SmartWay that uses a web interface that includes the following features on a map of Tennessee:

Caution Items



Anything that could mean lane closures such as construction or crashes on the road

Construction



Information on TDOT highway activities

Traffic Cameras



475 cameras across the state with real-time, live video of traffic

Message Signs

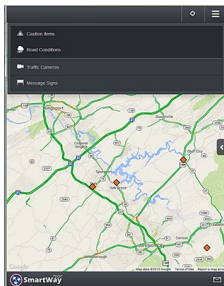


Information about what's ahead or safety messages

Road Conditions



Weather related information like floods or ice



You will notice the traffic cameras and message signs on I-81 near the I-26 interchange which are controlled by the TMC in Knoxville. SmartWay even has a feature that sorts highway events based on your location. You can stay aware of traffic incidents and conditions while traveling across Tennessee. You can use the SmartWay interface with most web browsers on most devices without having to download an app. You must have access to Wi-Fi or cellular data to view the interface on mobile devices. Please be aware that viewing the video feeds can use quite a bit of data if using cellular. Stay safe and informed – please check SmartWay before driving. To see the new SmartWay, visit <https://smartway.tn.gov/>.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- At the March 19, 2015 City Commission Meeting, Charles Spencer, Mike Sluder, and Teresa McAdams were re-appointed to the Board of Dwelling Standards and Review. (BDSR)
- At the April 2, 2015 City Commission Meeting, Dr. Hal Hunter was newly appointed while Tom Mozen was reappointed to the Historic Zoning Commission. (HZC)
- The Johnson City Regional Planning Commission (JCRPC) is currently advertising for three (3) new appointments. The closing date is set for Friday, June 12, 2015. So if you or anyone you might know is interested, please apply!



[Sign up for our Newsletter](#)

...or tell us what you think! Comments, Concerns, Questions...

- The Johnson City Development Services Department is proud to announce the new Codes Enforcement Complaint Line - (423) 434-5775. You may now transfer callers to this number or provide this number instead of any previous numbers that you may have had. This new complaint line will enable residents and other community members to report complaints pertaining to Johnson City properties which appear to be in violation of Johnson City Code.



The Development Services Newsletter is a quarterly publication by the department.
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